measures have been taken to prevent infection of Hepatitis-B:-

- Central Government hospitals personnel at high risk are being immunized against Hepatitis-B. State Governments have also been advised to take similar steps.
- Guidelines have been issued for mandatory testing of blood in all blood banks.
- Promotion of safe sex under National AIDS Control Programme is advocated.
- Health awareness campaigns regarding the danger of using unsterile syringes and needles under National AIDS Control Programme are held.
- Guidlines have been issued to State Health Authorities for use of separate sterile syringes and needles for each injection.
- A pilot project to introduce Hepatitis-B Vaccine in 15 selected cities and 32 districts in 17 States of the country, which are high risk areas, in order to study the impact of administration has been launched. The pilot project is estimated to cost Rs. 27.19 crores out of which vaccines and AD syringes cost Rs. 23.89 crores, which will be funded by the Global Alliance on Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI).

Vaccines for Hepatitis-B is available in the country at affordable prices.

Use of the title 'Doctor'

*409. SHRI R.N. ARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to L.M. Harison's Medical Dictionary, the qualified professors, dentists and pharmacists in USA may use the title 'Doctor';

(b) whether the above professors, dentists, pharmacists may use the title 'Doctor' in their names in India;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) In India, Registered Medical Practitioners on a State Medical Register, authorized to prescribe medications or conduct surgery and registered Dentists can prefix 'Doctor' with their names. The pharmacists cannot prefix 'Doctor' with their name. Persons with Ph.D. Degree in any discipline can also prefix the title 'Doctor' in India.

Funds for upgradation of IGAS, Patna

†*410. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Bihar has requested for funds of more than Rs. 40 crores for strengthening and upgrading the Indira Gandhi Ayurvigyan Sansthan, Shaikhpura, Patna;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No such proposal has been received from Government of Bihar.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Increase in Heart and Cancer Patients

†*411. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing number of patients, particularly of heart and cancer in All India Institute of Medical Sciences and G.B. Pant Hospital in Delhi;

(b) whether Government have any scheme for providing easily accessible treatment to these patients;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.